



# Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training

## Providence/Cranston

### Workforce Investment Area



The Providence/Cranston Workforce Investment Area (WIA) includes the capital city of Providence and the state's third largest city, Cranston. Together, these two cities had a combined estimated population of 258,476 in July 2005. This represented a 2.1 percent (+5,212) increase in estimated total population between July 2000 and July 2005. In comparison, the state's population as a whole grew by an estimated 2.4 percent during this period. Approximately 24.0 percent of all Rhode Islanders lived in the Providence/Cranston WIA in July 2005.

Between June 2000 and June 2006, the labor force of Providence/Cranston increased by 8,414 people (+7.2%). During this period, resident employment grew by 5,563 (+5.0%), while the number of unemployed in the area increased by 2,851 (+50.5%). Providence/Cranston had an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent in June 2006, notably higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 5.5 percent.

#### Providence - Cranston WIA Labor Force Statistics

*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	Jun-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-03	Jun-04	Jun-05	Jun-06*	Jun 00 - Jun 06	
								Change	% Change
Labor Force	116,990	117,901	118,777	123,301	121,260	122,747	125,404	8,414	7.2%
Employment	111,342	111,105	112,115	114,648	113,369	115,040	116,905	5,563	5.0%
Unemployment	5,648	6,796	6,662	8,653	7,891	7,707	8,499	2,851	50.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.8	5.6	7.0	6.5	6.3	6.8	2.0	---

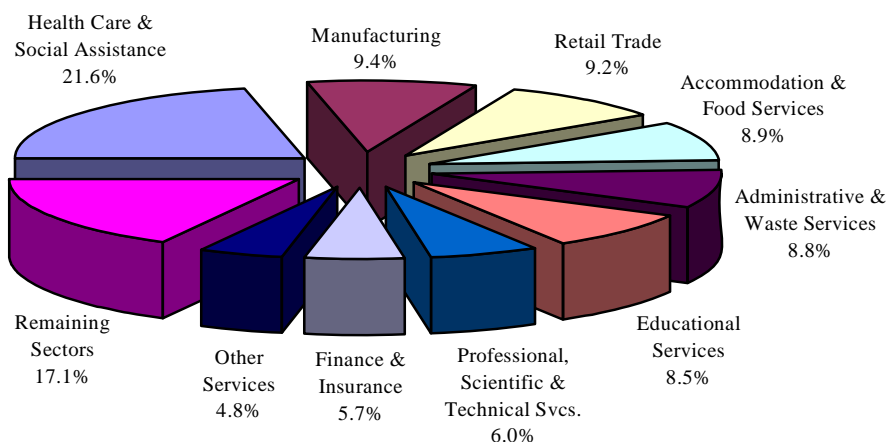
\*Preliminary Estimate. All months are subject to Annual Benchmarking Revisions.

With an annual average of 149,207 private sector and government jobs in 2005, Providence/Cranston-based employers accounted for 31.2 percent of all Ocean State employment. Nearly 22 percent of all private sector employment in the WIA was in the Health Care & Social Assistance industry sector, followed by Manufacturing (9.4%), Retail Trade (9.2%), Accommodation & Food Services (8.9%), Administrative & Waste Services (8.8%), and Educational Services (8.5%).

Overall, 6,794 jobs were lost in the Providence/Cranston area between 2000 and 2005, a 4.4 percent decline that contrasted with the 2.3 percent (+10,627) growth experienced statewide. Despite this loss, local employment gains occurred in several economic sectors, with the largest growth reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,740). More than 37 percent of the state's Health Care & Social Assistance jobs were located in Providence/Cranston in 2005.

Notable job growth was also reported in Educational Services (+1,667), Accommodation & Food Services (+1,222), Management of Companies (+576), Construction (+354), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+351), Retail Trade (+166), and Other Services (+67). All of these sectors reported overall statewide job growth during this period as well.

**Total Private Sector Employment in the Providence/Cranston WIA by Industry Sector**



*A Product of the*

**Labor Market Information Unit - Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training**

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On a percentage basis, industry sector job growth in Providence/Cranston generally lagged behind statewide growth. Employment in the Management of Companies sector grew by 34.6 percent between 2000 and 2005, significantly less than industry sector growth throughout the Ocean State (+45.1%). Professional, Scientific & Technical Services firms in the area increased their total employment by 4.8 percent, a rate of growth below the 12.2 percent experienced statewide in this industry sector. Similarly, the rates of job growth in Providence/Cranston's Construction (+8.4%) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+6.8%) industry sectors were below those of the state (+20.5% and +12.1%, respectively). On a more positive note, local job growth in Accommodation & Food Services (+12.2%) outpaced industry sector job growth throughout Rhode Island (+8.3%) between 2000 and 2005.

As was the trend statewide, Manufacturing firms in Providence/Cranston shed nearly 4,500 jobs between 2000 and 2005. Down from 12.6 percent in 2000, Manufacturing jobs currently account for 9.4 percent of total private sector employment in the area. Significant job losses were also reported in Administrative & Waste Services (-1,277), Finance & Insurance (-1,222), and Information (-986). Local Wholesale Trade (-842), Transportation & Warehousing (-246), Utilities (-199), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-148), and Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (-135) firms also shed employment during this period.

Of the private industry sectors that reported job losses in Providence/Cranston between 2000 and 2005, most experienced percentage declines greater than the state as a whole. For example, local Manufacturing employment dipped by 27.3 percent during this period, while throughout Rhode Island, Manufacturing firms shed 22.6 percent of their employment. Likewise, Information sector jobs in the area fell by 15.3 percent, while the state as a whole lost just 1.1 percent of this sector's employment. Also, Administrative & Waste Services firms in Providence/Cranston shed 10.3 percent of their employment, compared to just a 2.8 percent decline statewide.

In addition, Finance & Insurance employment in Providence/Cranston dropped by 14.5 percent, while the Ocean State as a whole increased industry sector employment by 11.6 percent. Similarly, local Transportation & Warehousing employment fell by nearly 15 percent between 2000 and 2005, but increased by 1.5 percent statewide.

In 2005, Providence/Cranston's annual average private sector wage was \$40,397. This was \$3,333 higher than the statewide private sector average of \$37,064. Management of Companies & Enterprises led all of Providence/Cranston's economic sectors with an annual average wage of \$114,680, followed by Finance & Insurance (\$67,738), Utilities (\$67,644), and Information (\$66,358). The lowest annual average wages were reported in Accommodation & Food Services (\$16,160), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$18,586), and Retail Trade (\$23,659) - industry sectors that generally rely upon part-time help and require limited previous work experience and skill sets.

### Providence/Cranston WIA Covered Employment

	<i>Annual Average Employment</i>						<i>2000 - 2005</i>	
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>
<b>Total, Private Sector &amp; Government</b>	<b>156,001</b>	<b>155,874</b>	<b>151,880</b>	<b>152,638</b>	<b>150,458</b>	<b>149,207</b>	<b>(6,794)</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>
<b>Total, Private Sector only</b>	<b>130,119</b>	<b>129,371</b>	<b>125,797</b>	<b>126,897</b>	<b>126,965</b>	<b>126,522</b>	<b>(3,597)</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>
Utilities	725	774	649	679	586	526	(199)	-27.5%
Construction	4,229	4,453	4,537	4,771	4,478	4,583	354	8.4%
Manufacturing	16,374	15,951	14,849	13,135	12,366	11,900	(4,474)	-27.3%
Wholesale Trade	4,854	4,417	4,105	4,177	4,148	4,012	(842)	-17.3%
Retail Trade	11,509	11,200	11,865	12,331	11,855	11,675	166	1.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,674	1,505	1,591	1,497	1,436	1,428	(246)	-14.7%
Information	6,427	5,966	5,341	5,476	5,276	5,441	(986)	-15.3%
Finance & Insurance	8,430	8,894	7,700	7,995	7,489	7,208	(1,222)	-14.5%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	2,151	2,231	1,967	2,036	2,113	2,016	(135)	-6.3%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	7,251	7,518	7,329	7,383	7,408	7,602	351	4.8%
Management of Companies	1,667	1,721	1,632	2,012	2,376	2,243	576	34.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	12,422	11,724	10,786	10,198	11,125	11,145	(1,277)	-10.3%
Educational Services	9,130	9,608	9,748	10,019	10,511	10,797	1,667	18.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	25,581	25,411	25,663	26,710	27,334	27,321	1,740	6.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,499	1,460	1,258	1,285	1,345	1,351	(148)	-9.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	10,002	10,371	10,539	10,918	11,042	11,224	1,222	12.2%
Other Services	5,952	6,108	6,151	6,226	6,015	6,019	67	1.1%
Government	25,882	26,503	26,083	25,741	23,493	22,684	(3,198)	-12.4%

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from industry revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting methods. Data is subject to revision and may not add due to rounding.

In June 2006, nearly 29 percent of the 9,525 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits in the state were residents of the Providence/Cranston WIA. Numbering 2,721, these “insured unemployed” workers accounted for 32 percent of all unemployed Providence/Cranston area residents. In comparison, 30 percent of unemployed Rhode Island residents were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in June 2006.

Long-term unemployment, that is, unemployment spells of fifteen weeks or longer, was slightly higher (31.7%) among Providence/Cranston residents than in the state (31.4%) as a whole. Within the area, concentrations of long-term unemployment were highest among workers 65 years and older (46.0%) and between the ages of 55 and 59 (45.7%).

Roughly 28 percent of the Providence/Cranston residents collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 24 percent were between 45 and 54 years of age. On a statewide basis, unemployed workers were older than those living in the Providence/Cranston WIA.

The educational attainment levels for workers in the Providence/Cranston WIA were lower than those in the state. One-quarter of the unemployed workers in the area did not have a high school diploma or GED equivalency compared to 16.7 percent in the state. Nearly 42 percent of the unemployed WIA residents reported having a high school diploma or equivalency, 15 percent reported some college and 15 percent reported having a bachelor’s degree or higher. On a statewide basis, higher percentages of unemployed reported education attainment levels in these categories.

Nearly two-thirds (62.5%) of the unemployed Providence/Cranston area residents worked at businesses located within the WIA, followed by businesses located in Warwick (10.1%), Pawtucket (4.5%), Johnston (4.2%) and Lincoln (4.0%). Manufacturing (21.5%) made up the largest percentage of the businesses located in the WIA, followed by businesses in the Administrative & Waste Services (13.8%), Health Care & Social Assistance (7.8%) and Accommodation and Food Services (7.6%) sectors.

Approximately 40 percent of the unemployed Providence/Cranston residents currently collecting benefits were previously employed as Production Workers (26.2%) or as Office & Administrative Support Workers (13.5%). An additional 8.7 percent were employed in Transportation & Material Moving occupations.

**Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed  
Living in the Providence/Cranston WIA  
June 2006**

	Insured Unemployed	Long-term Unemployed	
	Total	Total	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>31.7%</b>
Male	1,205	416	34.5%
Female	1,517	446	29.4%
<b>Age</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>31.7%</b>
Under 22	90	17	19.5%
22 - 24	158	41	25.7%
25 - 34	629	186	29.6%
35 - 44	765	218	28.5%
45 - 54	651	219	33.6%
55 - 59	214	98	45.7%
60 - 64	114	36	31.6%
65 or over	101	47	46.0%
<b>Education</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>31.7%</b>
Less than 9th Grade	305	98	32.1%
9th to 12th, no diploma	398	111	27.8%
High School Graduate	1,138	403	35.4%
Some College	406	128	31.5%
Bachelor's Degree	277	59	21.4%
Beyond Bachelor's	134	40	29.6%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>31.7%</b>
Manufacturing	667	263	39.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	422	12	2.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	311	94	30.3%
Retail Trade	241	71	29.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	207	57	27.5%
Construction	154	41	26.5%
Finance & Insurance	149	48	32.0%
Wholesale Trade	85	26	30.1%
Other Services	84	26	30.6%
Professional & Tech. Services	77	24	31.8%
Real Estate	72	17	24.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	56	16	29.2%
Educational Services	41	14	34.3%
Information	36	15	41.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	30	7	23.1%
Public Administration	19	3	18.8%
<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>31.7%</b>
Production	712	230	32.4%
Office & Administrative Support	367	119	32.4%
Transportation & Material Moving	236	85	36.0%
Sales & Related	172	49	28.4%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	139	38	27.7%
Construction & Extraction	113	31	27.8%
Business & Financial Operations	87	23	26.7%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	84	36	43.1%
Healthcare Support	81	35	42.9%
Education, Training & Library	70	13	18.3%

In 2000, approximately one quarter of Providence/Cranston residents (aged 25 and older) had a high school diploma or equivalent, 15.2 percent had completed some college-level courses, and 30.2 percent had an associate degree or higher. However, more than 29 percent of Providence/Cranston residents did not have a high school diploma, compared to 22 percent statewide.

Of Providence/Cranston's working age population (18 to 64), 9.6 percent, or nearly one out of every ten individuals, spoke little or no English in 2000. The Spanish speaking population comprised the largest percentage (76.2%) of the working age population who spoke little or no English in these communities.

According to Census 2000, more than 57 percent of Providence/Cranston residents held jobs that were located in the Providence/Cranston area. Approximately 90 percent of Providence/Cranston residents worked within Rhode Island, while 9 percent worked in neighboring Massachusetts (see *Where Providence/Cranston WIA Residents Work* below).

In 2000, nearly 41 percent of the jobs located in Providence/Cranston were held by residents of Providence or Cranston. Rhode Islanders held nearly 92 percent of the jobs located in the Providence/Cranston WIA, while Massachusetts residents accounted for 7.2 percent of jobs located in these two communities (see *Where Providence/Cranston WIA Workers Live* below).

### Educational Attainment, 2000

<b>Population (25+)</b>	<b>152,040</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
< 9th grade	18,289	12.0%
9th-12th, no diploma	26,490	17.4%
High School Graduate	38,203	25.1%
Some College, no degree	23,109	15.2%
Associate Degree	8,754	5.8%
Bachelor Degree	21,309	14.0%
Graduate/Professional Degree	15,886	10.4%

### Language Spoken at Home, 2000

<b>Population (18-64)</b>	<b>158,195</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Speak English	143,023	90.4%
Speak Spanish	11,565	7.3%
Speak Other Indo-European	1,485	0.9%
Speak Asian/Pacific Islander	1,954	1.2%
Speak Other Languages	168	0.1%

### Where Providence/Cranston WIA Residents Work

<b>Total</b>	<b>103,160</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Providence, RI	43,948	42.6%
Cranston, RI	14,980	14.5%
Warwick, RI	8,360	8.1%
Pawtucket, RI	3,797	3.7%
East Providence, RI	3,400	3.3%
Johnston, RI	2,768	2.7%
Lincoln, RI	1,878	1.8%
North Providence, RI	1,612	1.6%
Woonsocket, RI	1,521	1.5%
Boston, MA	1,467	1.4%
Other Communities	19,429	18.8%

### Providence/Cranston WIA Residents Work in the State of:

<b>Total</b>	<b>103,160</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Rhode Island	92,519	89.7%
Massachusetts	9,314	9.0%
Connecticut	661	0.6%
Other State/Country	666	0.6%

### Where Providence/Cranston WIA Workers Live

<b>Total</b>	<b>145,362</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Providence, RI	40,210	27.7%
Cranston, RI	18,718	12.9%
Warwick, RI	11,820	8.1%
Pawtucket, RI	6,989	4.8%
East Providence, RI	6,145	4.2%
North Providence, RI	5,912	4.1%
Johnston, RI	4,613	3.2%
Coventry, RI	3,286	2.3%
West Warwick, RI	3,057	2.1%
Smithfield, RI	2,963	2.0%
Other Communities	41,649	28.7%

### Providence/Cranston WIA Workers Live in the State of:

<b>Total</b>	<b>145,362</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Rhode Island	133,222	91.6%
Massachusetts	10,428	7.2%
Connecticut	683	0.5%
Other State/Country	1,029	0.7%

### For more Rhode Island Labor Market Information...

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